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# Message Text

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11
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R 110834Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC 1767

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15275

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ML GW FR PFOR EAID
SUBJECT: TALKS ON MALI -- PARIS AND BONN

1. BAMAKO DCM DAWKINS CALLED SEPTEMBER 8 AT FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND SEPTEMBER 10 IN BONN AT GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, AS WELL AS FRG COOPERATION MINISTRY, FOR GENERAL REVIEW OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH MALI.

2. TALKS IN BOTH PARIS AND BONN SHOWED CLOSE IDENTIFICATION OF WESTERN INTERESTS IN MALI; CONCERN OVER SOVIET INFLUENCE; AND ACCEPTANCE OF CONTINUING ECONOMIC AID.

3. SCHULTY AT QUAI SAID FRENCH AID TO MALI WOULD CONTINUE AT LEAST AT PRESENT LEVELS AND MIGHT SHOW MODEST INCREASES IN COMING YEARS. HE WELCOMED SECRETARY'S DAKAR SPEECH AND EVIDENCE OF INCREASING US COMMITMENT TO SAHEL STATES. SCHLUTY WAS WELL AWARE OF MALIAN GOVERNMENT SHORTCOMINGS -- HE CITED CORRUPTION AND "GROWING" INEFFICIENCY -- BUT IMPLIED THAT FRENCH AID WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.

4. REGARDING SOVIETS IN MALI, SCHLUTY SAID THEY HAD
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GAINED INFLUENCE PRIMARILY BY THEIR WILLINGNESS TO

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PROVIDE MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAT MALI COULD NOT GET FROM OTHERS. THERE WERE PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, SAID SCHLUTY, SINCE SOVIETS MAINTAINED TIGHT CONTROL OVER KEY SPARE PARTS, THUS TYING MALIAN MILITARY OPERATIONS TO SOVIET APPROVAL. CHINESE, ON OTHER HAND, DID NOT DO THIS WHICH EXPLAINED MALIAN PREFERENCE FOR CHINESE EQUIPMENT AND USE OF CHINESE SUPPLIED ARMOR ON VOLTAN BORDER. SCHLUTY AGREED THAT SOVIETS AND MALIANS DID NOT TRUST EACH OTHER, AND THAT THIS LIMITED SOVIET INFLUENCE.

5. IN BONN, KREMER AT FOREIGN MINISTRY (WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS) WAS OBVIOUSLY AGITATED OVER LACK OF POLITICAL GAINS FROM GERMAN ECONOMIC AID TO MALI AND WAS INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING PROSPECTS OF INFLUENCING MALI ON CERTAIN THIRD WORLD ISSUES. KREMER ALSO PRAISED FRENCH INFLUENCE IN WEST AFRICA AND DECRIED WHAT HE SAID WERE "OCCASIONAL" SUGGESTIONS FROM SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES TO MOVE INTO TRADITIONAL FRENCH AREAS OF INTEREST.

4. GERMAN COOPERATION MINISTRY OFFICIAL SIEDLER (CENTRAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS) WAS WELL INFORMED ON MALI AND GAVE AS HIS OPINION THAT PRESENT $8-10 MILLION ANNUAL AID LEVEL FOR MALI WOULD HOLD, AS WOULD $4.8 MILLION LEVEL OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ANNUALLY. FRG'S CONTRIBUTION OF $56 MILLION FOR OMVS WOULD RESULT IN MALI RECEIVING MORE AID THAN OTHER SAHELIAN STATES.

5. CDO MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT SIEDLER BELIEVES HE CAN GET FINANCING AT YEAR END FOR PHOSPHATE PROJECT WHICH SEEMED TO BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO HIM.

7. CONCLUSION: DCM TOOK ADVANTAGE OF R AND R FOR THESE TALKS WHICH CONFIRMED WIDE AREA OF COMMON US-FRENCH-WEST GERMAN INTEREST IN MALI, AS WELL AS LACK OF PROBLEMS BETWEEN US.
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